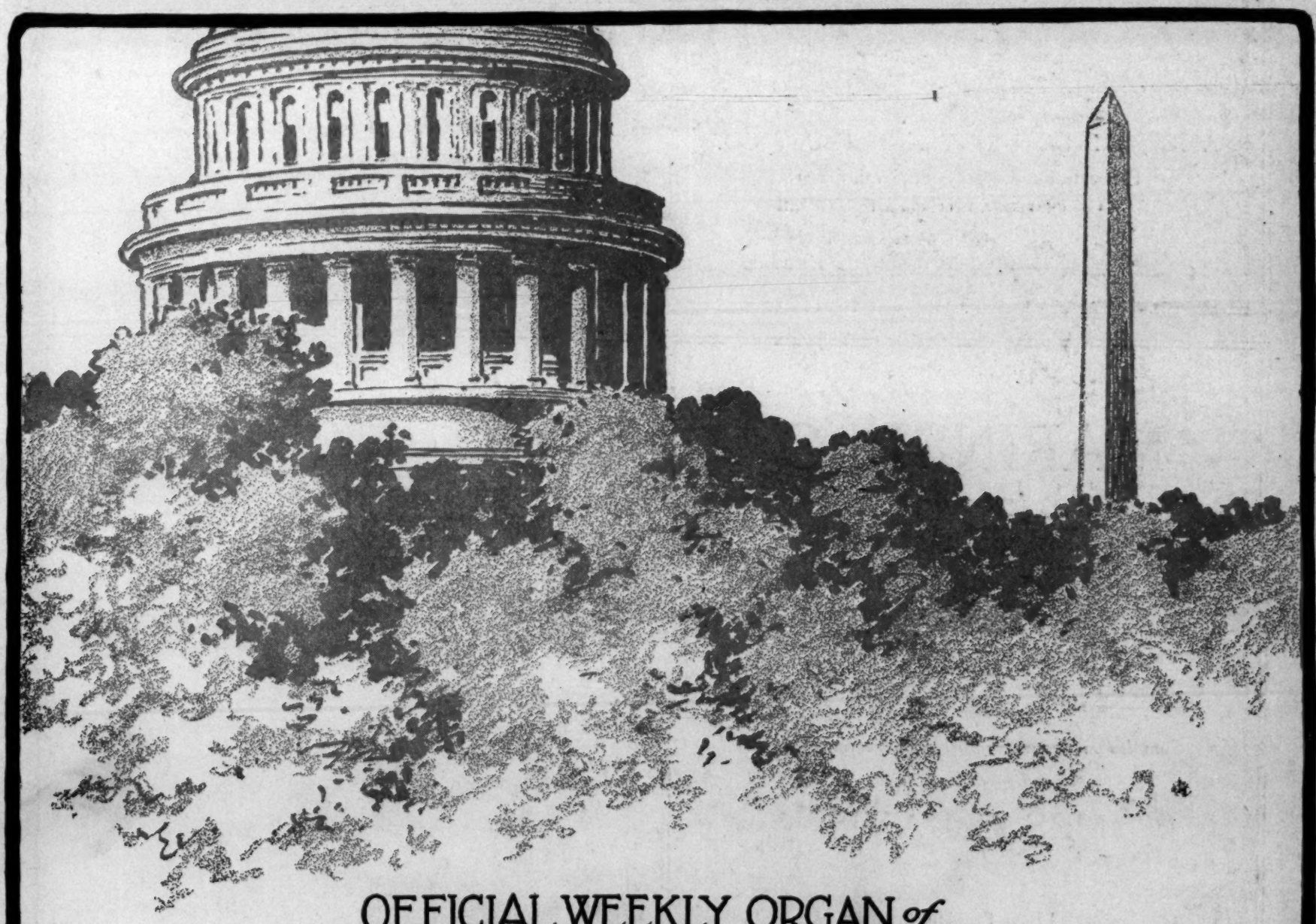
Vol. VI, No. 2 Saturday, June 8, 1918 FIVE CENTS

The Suffragist



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Notes of the Week

President Wilson Makes Another Suffrage Recommendation

AN amendment to the constitution of the state of Louisiana to give suffrage to the women of the state is at present before the legislature and will probably be voted upon in a few days. If it passes the legislature it will be referred to the voters for ratification in November. President Wilson has sent a telegram to the legislature urging the adoption of the amendment.

"I cannot help regarding the settlement of this question as of world-wide significance," said President Wilson, "and as affording a standard by which to judge our present interest in the complete establishment of democracy. I am moved to send you this expression of opinion by a very profound sense of the public interest."

It is most significant that the President does not urge the measure as one for the individual state to decide as he has done formerly in recommending the enfranchisement of women to a state government. At last he admits publicly that suffrage is an international movement and not a local one. It becomes more evident every day that the Senators who are opposing the suffrage amendment are at the same time obstructing the President's war legislation.

Senator Vardaman Pledges Support

SENATOR Vardaman's definite pledge to support the federal suffrage amendment is interesting as an example of the changing attitude of the new South. In acknowledging the receipt of a petition from Pass Christian suffragists, Senator Vardaman promptly replied as follows, for the first time expressing his intention of voting for federal suffrage in a message to his own constituents:

United States Senate, May 25, 1918.

Mrs. E. J. Adam,

Pas Christian, Miss.

My Dear Madam:

Your petition of the eighteenth instant has been received.

It is my purpose to vote for the amendment to the Constitution giving women the right of suffrage. I do this believing profoundly that the influence of women will be most potential in rehabilitating the world after this horrible war is over.

Cordially and sincerely,

(Signed) JAMES K. VARDAMAN.

A Soldier's Protest Against the Disfranchisement of Women

MISS Sarah James, District Chairman of the Woman's Party of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, sends the following letter of a Jewish soldier to his mother, which has been printed in the *War Camps Bulletin* of May, 1918, and was lately read at the regular service of the Temple Beth Zion in Buffalo by Rabbi Kopald:

"Mother:

"You, like all mothers, are the best soldiers of them all. Your lot is the hardest, but you are the bravest. Put me down on record and quote me if you like, in saying, that after what I have seen of the women of France and England, he who would in any way restrict the privileges of women on account of her sex is a fool beyond redemption.

"I take off my hat to them and apologize for holding back my vote. They are the glory of the age. If I should be asked to say what are the two greatest things I've seen I'd first say the women and secondly the Y. M. C. A. Never refuse the latter a request. They are the finest and best that live."

New York Women Organize for Federal Suffrage

THAT the new voters of New York State are holding the Administration responsible for the failure of the Government to pass the federal suffrage amendment telegrams like the one below demonstrate. Women in all parts of the state are refusing to register with the Democratic Party because of the present Administration blockade in the Senate in regard to the suffrage amendment.

The telegram below was addressed to Mrs. George Bass as an auxiliary member of the National Democratic Committee, whom women feel should try to represent to Party leaders the feeling of protest of Democratic women in the suffrage states:

"Many members of my Club are anxious to enroll with the Democratic Party," writes Mrs. Smith, "for the primaries on Saturday—provided they are assured that the Administration will pass the federal suffrage amendment this session. What shall I tell them?"

(Signed) MRS. CLARENCE M. SMITH,
331 West 110th Street.

Needless to say the answer to such communications has been non-committal on the part of Mrs. Bass and the Democratic National Committee, which but a short time ago pledged itself to support federal suffrage.

President Appoints Women

THE President recently appointed Mrs. Francis Axtell chairman of the United States Employees' Compensation Commission, a commission of which she has been a member for a year. She was the first woman in the country to be appointed by executive order to a permanent federal commission. The importance of the position has greatly increased in the past year as its work has been more than doubled in that time. Mrs. Axtell has proved an efficient executive. She was formerly chairman of the State of Washington of the National Woman's Party when it was formed of voting women in 1916.

Belated News from Russia

THE current issue of *The Labour Woman*, a British woman's journal, gives an account of the first all-woman Soviet held in Perm, Russia, last October. The report of this meeting has only just reached this country. The English paper gives the following report of it:

"The Congress, which lasted for three days, was attended by more than three hundred delegates from all parts of this gigantic region. The delegates, though of peasant birth, represented various occupations; they were agriculturists, factory operatives, shop assistants and clerks, students, and so on. The discussion covered an exceedingly wide field. For example, they considered an 'appeal from the League of Russian Women to secure the participation of women in all political and social organizations, and to demand that women in every country should bring pressure to bear upon their respective governments to conclude a fratricidal war as soon as possible by a peace without annexations or indemnities.' Improved methods of popular education were demanded, and the Soviet adopted the principle of freedom of conscience in religious matters. Broadly speaking, the main desires voiced by the delegates were for the regular organization of public life and for a speedy peace."

Women and Registration in New York

NOT all the political bosses in New York have got over their life long habit of discriminating against women. The women in Buffalo have expressed their indignation that they were given only one day in which to register while the men had four days for the same thing. The women stood in long lines waiting to register. Some of them were not able to wait for their turns. They were furnished with only two clerks while the men had four clerks to manage the registration. The old fashioned politicians are still trying to keep women from the polls. Not until the federal amendment is passed will they realize that they must treat women as full political equals.

Suffrage Delayed in Italy

ON the last day of the session of the Italian Chamber the prime minister announced that the question of woman suffrage would be postponed. A bill was passed granting suffrage to boys under twenty-one years of age who are combatants. The prime minister declared himself in favor of the enfranchisement of women. Other speeches were made in favor of suffrage but the Italian law-makers were all satisfied to postpone the matter. The Italian women are not organized to so great an extent as the women in other countries, nevertheless the eyes of political leaders are being opened. At least they are making statements in favor of suffrage.

Drawn for The Suffragist by Nina E. Allender

Half Measures

Robert Brueire Says War Administration Needs Women

"WE can't fight this war without enfranchising women." This was the major premise of Robert Bruère, special investigator of industrial conditions for the Government, when he spoke on democracy in industry at the National headquarters of the Woman's Party this week.

"I have been out through the mills and factories," said Mr. Bruère, "where the workers' sense of responsibility in democracy is simply beyond belief. The status of women in industry is one of the conditions in this country which must be changed, and to change it we must have the co-operation of the women themselves. The problem lies at our very doors. Right here in Washington wages are paid women which are a disgrace, and in addition a very definite menace to the morale of a country at war.

"There is in addition the housing problem of the Capital, a problem women are especially fitted to cope with. Sometimes I think that the cause of enfranchisement itself might be strengthened by such work as Mrs. Hilles has been doing in the munition factories of Delaware—organizing women for democracy within the factories and shops themselves.

"The Administration reception of those munition workers here in Washington when they came to make their plea for fuller democracy was discouraging. I admit it. It is such episodes that make the thoughtful outsider realize that "stunts" are necessary in putting over propaganda where the public mind must be aroused. If I thought such campaigns jeopardized the success of this war in the least I would be silent on the subject. I don't believe it for a moment.

THE case of the shipbuilders of this country is an example. They were attacked as "unpatriotic" in every newspaper in the country. But they knew their demands were justified and they carried out their program. 'Unless we can get a hearing, we quit,' they declared, and the protest grew from coast to coast. They won an immeasurable victory for a section of the workers of this country; they did a patriotic thing.

"In your fight for the enfranchisement of the women of this country you also are justified in taking extreme measures. It seems to me, in the face of the tax legislation about to be put through, women should be able to seize their opportunity. The constantly increasing problems of women in industry further reinforce your argument.

"But I am conscious that it is foolish of me to advise a group that has put over the most consummate campaign the country has produced, a campaign that so largely contributed to the victory in New York State and in the House of Representatives. In the face of such a campaign as yours I could not improve your strategy.

"Whatever the method, we must at the present time bring home to the men and women of this country the necessity for democracy. We cannot do it without the women themselves. The Government, as I see it, will have to create a woman's division to deal with women's problems, not detached from the working government, a remote rim of Saturn, like the Woman's Committee of National Defense, but a working part of the country's war administration machine.

"Only by enfranchising women, by making them our co-partners, can we 'make our hearts think democracy,' in the words of the striking girl worker of Chicago."

The Appeal of a Munition Worker

From the Congressional Record for June 6, 1918

Senator France, The Capitol.

Dear Senator France:

We come to you as a friend of suffrage to ask that you take a message to the United States Senate from women munition workers of America.

The message that we wish to send is this:

Women war workers need the vote. They need it to protect themselves and maintain their efficiency, and they are convinced that it is their patriotic duty, with their efficiency as workers in mind, to make every effort to secure the passage of the suffrage amendment at once.

So long as the government discriminates against women, employers will discriminate against them.

The government says our work is as important as the work of soldiers. It admits that we face the risk of injury and death as soldiers face it, but it does not recognize us as citizens of the country as soldiers are.

In the munition plants we are put in men's places. The same production is required of us as of men, but in our rights we are not made equal with men.

Other nations in which the rights of the people weren't supposed to be protected as well as in this one have granted women the vote since they have been doing the war work of men. Rulers of other nations have received deputations of women munition workers and have visited them and recognized their importance.

The American people do not realize how many thousands of women are being put into the places of men called into the army. Every man in the eight loading rooms of our factory will soon be taken in the draft and women put into these shops, where accidents occur almost daily. Those of us who sign this letter are now fuse makers and inspectors handling the highest explosives.

We want to do this work for the army; we do not mind the danger; we do not care how hard or dangerous the work becomes; but we are determined as American women, and as the rank and file of young American women have never been determined before, that we will be recognized as citizens of the government we are working to defend and equals of the men who fight with the arms we make for them.

Respectfully yours,

MARY COLUMBUS AKERS,
BERTHA WILLIAMS,
HAZEL LE BRUN,
ALICE DE MENT,
RUTH CREIGHTON,
THERESA REHAK,
LOTTIE ROHR,
LOUISE BATMAN,

Workers in the Bartlett-Haywood Plant at Baltimore.

The Just Government League Demands Action

In an effort to bring home to the President the necessity for the immediate passage of the federal suffrage amendment by the Senate of the United States, Maryland suffragists, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Townsend Scott, Congressional Chairman of the Just Government League, went to Washington last week to talk over the situation with Mr. Joseph P. Tumulty, the President's private secretary.

After interviewing him the Maryland women then turned their steps in the direction of the National Democratic headquarters to discuss the situation with Vance McCormick, chairman of the National Democratic Committee and with Mrs. George Bass, chairman of the National Democratic Women's Committee. Several Cabinet members were also approached by the delegation, and their support solicited. At all these interviews the fact was stressed that the Administration is responsible for the delay in the Senate vote on the federal amendment, that the Democrats have publicly assumed responsibility for the delay, and that as spokesman of his party and leader of the forces to make the world safe for democracy President Wilson is placed in a peculiarly embarrassing position by the failure of the Senate to complete democracy at home.

In addition to Mrs. Scott, among those in the delegation were Mrs. Aubrey E. King, Miss Eleanor White, Miss Henrietta Hagerty, Miss Gwendolyn Scott, Mrs. D. R. Hooker, Mrs. E. Griswold Thelin, Mrs. Howard T. Schwarz, Mrs. Almira Sweeten, Mrs. Robert Walker, Mrs. Chester Turnbull, Mrs. George M. Lamb, Mrs. J. Wm. Funck, Mrs. C. N. Gabriel, Mrs. Rignal W. Baldwin, Mrs. Mary Haslup, Mrs. William Dare, Mrs. Pauline W. Holme, Mrs. C. H. Dankmyer, Mrs. Wm. J. Brown, Mrs. George Rollman, Mrs. Charles Gantz and Miss Suzanne Baldwin.

THE NATIONAL SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States extending the right of suffrage to women.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article be proposed to the legislatures of the several States as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which when ratified by three-fourths of the said legislatures, shall be valid as part of said Constitution, namely:

"ARTICLE—SEC. 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

"SEC. 2. Congress shall have power, by appropriate legislation, to enforce the provisions of this article."

THE AMENDMENT IN THE SIXTY-FIFTH CONGRESS

Introduced

In the Senate, on April 4, 1917, by Senators Thompson, Owen, Jones and Shafroth.

In the House, on April 2, 1917, by Representatives Raker, Rankin, Mondell, Keating, Taylor and Hayden. Reintroduced in the House December 18, 1917, by Representatives Rankin, Raker, Hayden, Taylor, Keating and Mondell.

Referred

In the Senate, to the Committee on Woman Suffrage.

In the House, to the Judiciary Committee.

In the House all resolutions reintroduced on December 18 were referred to the Committee on Woman Suffrage.

Reported in the Senate

Favorably, September 15, 1917.

Reported in the House

By Judiciary Committee without recommendation December 15, 1917.

By Suffrage Committee with recommendation January 8, 1918.

Present Status

In the Senate

On the calendar awaiting a vote.

In the House

Passed January 10, 1918.

HISTORY OF THE AMENDMENT

Drafted

In its present form, by Susan B. Anthony in 1875.

First Introduced

January 10, 1878, by Hon. A. A. Sargent, in the Senate.

Reported from Committee

In the Senate

1878, Adverse majority.
1879, Favorable minority.
1882, Favorable majority, adverse minority.
1884, Favorable majority, adverse minority.
1886, Favorable majority.
1890, Favorable majority.
1892, Favorable majority, adverse minority.
1896, Adverse majority.
1913, Favorable majority.
1914, Favorable majority.
1917, Favorable majority.

In the House

1883, Favorable majority.
1884, Adverse majority, favorable minority.
1886, Favorable minority.
1890, Favorable majority.
1894, Adverse majority.
1914, Without recommendation.
1916, Without recommendation.
1917, Without recommendation.

Voted Upon

In the Senate

January 25, 1887. Yeas 16, nays 34. Absent 26 (of whom 4 were announced as for and 2 against).

March 19, 1914. Yeas 35, nays 34, failing by 11 of the necessary two-thirds vote.

In the House

January 12, 1915. Yeas 174, nays 204, failing by 78 of the necessary two-thirds vote.

January 10, 1918. Yeas 274, nays 136, passing by the necessary two-thirds vote.

The Suffragist

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Is the President Sincere?

TWO widely varying statements were made this week by those high in authority in regard to the suffrage situation in this country. One was made by the President of the United States in a communication to the State legislature of Louisiana where a measure is now pending which will refer suffrage to the electorate of the State. The other was made by Senator Shafroth, of Colorado, in the United States Senate, when Senator Gallinger, the Republican leader, demanded action on federal suffrage. He spoke as an Administration leader, in the absence of Senator Jones, chairman of the Senate committee on woman suffrage.

The President said: "I cannot help regarding the settlement of this question as of world-wide significance, and as affording a standard by which to judge our present interest in the complete establishment of democracy."

Mr. Shafroth said: "There has been considerable agitation concerning this question, and a great many requests are coming in for an early vote. *It has not been deemed advisable by the friends of the measure at the present time to press it for a vote.* The truth about the situation is that we have not the promise of about two or three members whose votes would be necessary to carry the amendment by a twothirds majority."

In the last utterance of the President on suffrage he has made a most magnificent stride forward. He now sees the enfranchisement of women—a matter that five years ago he says he had never considered—in the light of a world-question demanding adjustment. In addition, he admits that our failure to act will leave us liable to the charge of insincerity in our overseas crusade for democracy. It has taken the President of the United States many years to catch up with the forward-looking hopes and struggles of the women who have borne their share in the upbuilding of this democracy.

BUT his response to the stirring protest of men and women in every section of this country is addressed, not to the wilful reactionaries in the Senate itself, but to a legislature of a remote State where the opinions of the President matter little to gentlemen determined to fight to the last against the enfranchisement of women. The President of the United States is quite as well aware as the politicians of Louisiana that a referendum on suffrage in that state is a waste of women's time and money, another easy way of proving that the women of the South do not want the ballot.

Why does not the President speak to the only group to whom his admonition would have any weight—to the Senate of the United States, to whom he has repeatedly gone when war administration measures he sponsored have been in jeopardy?

Let him translate his new realizations into action. Let him go to the Senate of the United States and demand the three votes lacking from the twenty-three Administration servants who are at present blocking the suffrage amendment, instead of journeying far afield to give gratuitous advice to Southern legislatures.

As the Central-European powers may justly question our boasted "democracy," may not the men and women of this nation question the sincerity of the President of the United States, until the federal suffrage amendment is passed.

Republican Leaders Demand Action on Suffrage

ANOTHER skirmish on behalf of the federal suffrage amendment was precipitated this week in the Senate when Senator Gallinger, of New Hampshire, opened an attack on the Administration forces by demanding action on the measure that is causing the Republican leader to be inundated with appeals from all sections of the country. The Republicans who rallied to the support of Senator Gallinger included Senators Fall, of New Mexico; Smith, of Michigan; and Nelson, of Minnesota.

A weak attempt to answer the fire of the Republicans was made by Senator Shafroth, of Colorado, speaking for Senator Jones, of New Mexico, Chairman of the Senate Woman Suffrage Committee, who was absent.

"I have been deluged with letters and telegrams in reference to that matter, said Senator Gallinger. "I have in my hand some letters and papers urgently asking me to do what I can to get action on that amendment. I have replied, as a rule, that the matter is in the hands of a committee of the majority, and that whenever that committee is ready to move in the matter I shall be ready to cooperate.

"I am now going to ask the chairman of the committee, if he is in the Chamber, whether or not there is any purpose of calling for action on the amendment in the near future. I do this for the reason that some of us at least may not be here many weeks during this torrid weather, and we feel, or I feel, that it is but due to ourselves, to the country, and to the advocates of the amendment—men and women—to take action upon it before long.

"If the chairman of the committee is present I will very kindly ask him, or any member representing the committee, what the purpose is in reference to an early vote on the amendment. Probably some other member of the committee will answer if the chairman is not present.

"I do not want to be troublesome in this body. I have been absent for five days unavoidably, and I find my table loaded with letters and telegrams and very important requests that I as a friend of the amendment should urge it to early action. All I could do was to say that I was ready to vote upon the proposition at any time, and hoped it would be considered in the near future."

ONCE more Senator Shafroth concurred for the silent side of the Senate. Senator Fall, of New Mexico, then executed a flank maneuver on the opposition:

"As one of the consistent friends of woman suffrage I should like to be let into the secret. I have not been informed, privately or otherwise, as to the status, further than such information as has been imparted by just such statements as we have listened to from the Senator from Colorado.

"I say very frankly that I should very much prefer to deal with this as we deal with any other matter. I have not been accustomed to hiding legislation until we sought secretly to obtain what I consider to be a favorable vote upon such legislation, but rather to submit it upon its merits and let it be considered upon its merits.

"Now, I am prepared to vote for the joint resolution; but, so far as I am concerned, I do not intend to be delayed here, in the event other business of the Senate would allow me or justify me in leaving for a few days and then being called back peremptorily, as has been the case once heretofore, to suit the convenience of some gentleman who assumed to have charge of this measure."

Senator Nelson, of Minnesota, then "desired to make a brief statement." Implying that the Administration majority of the Woman Suffrage Committee was hiding behind the skirts of "lady managers" of the suffrage movement, he demanded that an end be put to delays; that he spoke humorously deceived no one as to his mood:

"I am a member of the Committee on Woman Suffrage and I joined in reporting this proposed amendment. I have been for it.

"All I have to say is that I shall vote for the proposed amendment, and the sooner we get it to a vote the better. I do not want to be subjected to this continual picketing. I want a little peace for the remainder of my days [laughter], and I therefore hope we may have a vote on this proposed amendment."

SENATOR Shafroth explained that, in spite of the increasing agitation it had been deemed advisable by the "friends of the measure" not to press for a vote at this time, explaining that "the promise of two or three members whose votes would be necessary" were not forthcoming: "I think we will get them; I cannot help but believe, the logic of the cause is so clear and convincing," explained the Western Senator hopefully, "but friends of the measure are not pressing it at this time."

Senator Cummins, of Iowa, replied with some vigor to this excuse: "I happen to be a member of the Woman Suffrage Committee. While the reply of the Senator from Colorado is quite accurate as far as it goes, I think he ought to be reminded and the Senate ought to know that at our last meeting, held some three weeks ago, it was definitely and officially decided to take up the resolution for consideration and to vote upon it during the present session of Congress. Personally, I believe it would be adopted if submitted at this moment."

Senator Shafroth admitted that the vote on "a measure advancing in strength and popular support" "is always a little larger than that which was absolutely promised. The growth in public sentiment in favor of equal suffrage has been enormous, especially since the beginning of the war. On that account I believe that we would likely pass the measure if the vote were taken now, but I feel also that to postpone it for a reasonable period of time would insure the passage of it at a later period of this session. I am confident the vote will be taken before Congress adjourns."

Senator Smith, of Michigan, pointed out that the support of the suffrage measure was at the present time larger than in any previous Congress and declared that he was willing that the matter be brought to an immediate test. "Then the matter can go where it belongs—to the country—and if it is interested sufficiently there will be no question about the passage of this joint resolution."

The Demands of the Press

A Suggestive Memory

"IT was through industrial action that suffrage was won in England. Not gratitude for war-work—that was the polite camouflage—but because the women were a power in the munitions works. I have been told unofficially, but on good authority, that 20,000 women stood all night in front of the houses of parliament saying they would tie up the munitions plants unless the vote were given. They have always been more stirred on this question in England because the condition of women is really worse in law than it is here.—*Margaret Whittemore, Seattle Union Record, May 3, 1918.*

Cheaters

UNITED States Senators are asked to make up their minds that women should vote. What kind of a mind is it that needs urging in this Red Cross week?

Do the Senators realize the load that women are carrying in factories, on farms, among the wounded, in the hospitals?

Is there so much evil in the hearts of women that they cannot be allowed to express an opinion?

And is there any answer to the truthful statement that the Senator who opposes the right of women to share in their own government either lacks respect for women or would cheat them out of their rights?—*Washington (D. C) Times, May 23.*

Picketing

IT looks to us as if the woman suffragists would have to give up their war work and go down to Washington to re-establish their lobby to win the ballot. The Senate seems to demand it.

Like a great, unweildy MAN (in the capitalized, irritated housewife use of that term), the "greatest deliberative body in the world" is now backing and filling on the passage of the suffrage constitutional amendment. . . . .

Will the Senate kindly take its head out of the sand? Will it stop to realize that during the course of the war 40,000,000 women have won the ballot and that America cannot and will not fall behind the other democratic nations in this advance?—*Rocky Mountain News, May 24, 1918.*

The New England Federal Suffrage Conference

Mrs. M. Toscan Bennet, Who Arranged the Conference

AN inter-state conference of suffragists was held for the first time in Connecticut last week when the New England Conference of the National Woman's Party met in Hartford for the purpose of taking counsel as to the best means of bringing home to the Senate the seriousness of their delay in passing this session the federal suffrage amendment; and to glance ahead to the ratification field in New England—for no one doubted that the ratification field will soon be open.

The big conference brought distinguished women from all of the New England States. Large parties motored from Massachusetts and Maine to the conference. The Maine party, led by Mrs. Robert Treat Whitehouse, chairman of the Maine Branch, included Mrs. Madeline Louis Freeman, Mrs. William F. Leonard, state treasurer; Mrs. Herbert P. Gardner, Mrs. Maud Neale, Mrs. Helen Kirkpatrick and Miss Ellen Clarke. The party held a federal suffrage meeting in Boston to focus attention on the purpose of the conference on the way down.

Members of the Boston branch of the Woman's Party also motored to the conference in a gaily decorated car. The Boston delegation included: Mrs. Donald B. Armstrong, Press Chairman; Mrs. Louise Dennison Bement, Framingham, Vice-Chairman; Miss Rebecca Hourwich, Organizer; Miss Ruth Small, of Boston; Mrs. Frederick H. Sykes, Cambridge; Mrs. Hallam L. Movius, Vice-Chairman; Mrs. Robert Gorham Fuller, Mrs. Jessica Henderson, Mrs. Mabel Bayard Warren, sister of Mrs. Hilles; Miss Grace Henshaw, Miss Cornelia Green, and Miss Camilla G. Whitcombe, of Worcester.

THE morning session of the conference, opening at the Hartford Club May 29, was given over, following the address of welcome by Mrs. W. D. Ascough, State Chairman, to the reports of the States. Mrs. Ascough, who has been campaigning on behalf of federal suffrage in the West and Northwest for the past month, was warmly welcomed home by the large Connecticut group.

The following reports were made: for Maine by Mrs. Robert Treat Whitehouse; for New Hampshire, by Miss Sallie Hovey; for Massachusetts, by Mrs. Katharine Ware Smith; for Connecticut, by Mrs. W. D. Ascough; and for Vermont, by Miss Anne Batchelder. The latter, in the absence of Miss Batchelder, was sent to the chairman. Mrs. Annie G. Porritt, press chairman of Connecticut, in an expert manner, discussed publicity ways and means, especially in relation to the present situation when the war is crowding the tense situation in the Senate in regard to suffrage out of the news.

The conference luncheon, held in the ball room, was a brilliant affair. Mrs. Edwin J. Blake, in charge of the decorations, combined the purple satin banners of the New England States with American flags, but did not forget to add a group of the purple, white and gold banners that had seen service on the picket line. On the tables daisies and iris carried out the suffrage colors. Mrs. William Bradford Green was in charge of the luncheon, with Mrs. C. M. Gallup chairman of hospitality, cooperating with Mrs. George H. Day, who was the official hostess of the conference.

At the speakers table were Mr. and Mrs. William D. Ascough, Mrs. H. O. Havemeyer, Miss Alice Paul, Mr. and Mrs. M. Toscan Bennett, Miss Lucy Burns, Mr. George M. Landers, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas N. Hepburn, Mrs. George H. Day, Mrs. Robert Treat Whitehouse, Miss Sallie Hovey, Mrs. Katherine Ware Smith, Mrs. Florence Bayard Hilles, of Delaware; Mrs. John Winters Brannan, of New York; Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Wilson, of Bridgeport; Rev. and Mrs. W. P. Ladd, of Middletown, the newly appointed Dean of Berkeley Divinity School; Dr. Valeria H. Parker, Mrs. Frederick H. Sykes, and Mrs. Edward Porritt.

MRS. H. O. Havemeyer acted as toastmistress, making a series of brilliant and graceful little speeches. The speakers were Mrs. Frederick H. Sykes, of Massachusetts, wife of the late Professor Sykes, first President of the Connecticut College for Women, who spoke on suffrage and democracy, dealing with the anamolous position of this country at this time; Miss Lucy Burns, who analyzed the present situation in the Senate; Mr. M. Toscan Bennet, Mrs. Thomas N. Hepburn, Mr. Lynn Wilson and Mr. George M. Landers.

The luncheon had a distinct political flavor:

Mrs. William Bradford Green, Connecticut Treasurer

Mrs. Hepburn made it plain in her talk on the policies of the National Woman's Party that as a political organization it had the power to rebuke. Mr. George M. Landers, a member of the Democratic State Central Committee of Connecticut and a member of the Governor's food administration committee, showed the respectful attitude politicians are now wont to assume with suffragists. Mr. Lynn Wilson, Democratic Editor, ably apologized for his state in a witty speech called "Connecticut Trying to Catch Up."

Mr. M. Toscan Bennett, an attorney interested in social legislation, who has for years been a working suffragist; and Judge Charles J. Martin, represented the Republican Party. Mr. Martin has been an acknowledged suffragist since he came out for state suffrage in the state legislature. Both men urged suffrage as a war measure and pointed out that the Administration must live up to its recent pledges.

At the afternoon session for the purpose of forming plans to bring the Republican Senators of New England into line with the progressive suffrage stand of Republicans in other parts of the country and thus securing immediate action in the Senate, Mrs. M. Toscan Bennet acted as Chairman and Miss Alice Paul, National Chairman of the Woman's Party, and Mrs. Florence Bayard Hilles, Delaware State Chairman, were the speakers.

Mrs. Hilles, who has worked in the Delaware munition plants, and organized a protesting group of women munition workers, who lately demanded suffrage action from the President on

Concluded on Page 13

War Workers Will Ask Interview With the President

THE President of the United States through his secretary, flatly refused to see the women munition makers of Delaware. The delegation of half a dozen women who waited patiently in the outer offices of the White House for nearly two weeks have returned to their work of making detonators for our war for democracy—but they are coming back. They asked the President to name a day when he would have time to see them for a few minutes, that the hundreds of girls who could not leave their work long might make the trip for the sake of that few minutes. These women thought—and still think—they might make democracy for American women seem as important to the Government as the cause of foreign men half a world away.

The girls from the munition factories and kindred war industries have decided to name their own date and ask again the latter part of this month for an audience with the President on behalf of the enfranchisement of American women.

The story of the long wait of these munition girls in the National Capital might to a foreigner seem a trifle grotesque and a trifle unreal. They waited in that great unventilated room farthest removed from the office of the Secretary, its walls covered with pictures of President Wilson.

It was curious the way in which the munition workers day after day just missed a time when the President might spare a few minutes. One afternoon when a cabinet meeting adjourned they all thought there was hope—but the President had to hurry off for his afternoon drive, and the executive offices were closed for the day.

On another day, when Mr. Tumulty himself chose to speak a few severe words to these girls who make shells, he explained that the President was golfing: "You can't expect to see the President at this hour of the morning. He plays his game of golf at ten-thirty. I will send you word when he will see you."

But the girls did not trust these promises. They waited on, knitting the while, and "attracting entirely too much attention," as one secretary put it. The truth is, prominent people streamed in and out, and the quiet young women wearing the munition workers' sleeve bands and identification badges, aroused curiosity and drew attention once more to the curious attitude of the Administration.

"What are they waiting for?" person after person asked.

"Why, to see the President. They'll have a long wait!"

"Why don't he see them? He sees 'Blue Devils' and Indians and Irish patriots and what not. What's the matter with American shell makers?"

It was unpleasant. One secretary felt he must explain to the girls. "You're terribly foolish. You may have to wait for *weeks*. Even LORD READING had to come back *four times* before he saw the President!"

This august precedent made no impression on the girl war-workers. They waited on.

"You are becoming a nuisance," hissed Under-Secretary Brahaney, finally. "Other people have more consideration than to keep coming back—but you, you persist and PERSIST."

"Even Lord Reading had to come back four times before he saw the President," meekly quoted one of the girl munition workers. "Of course Prince Arthur of Connaught and the soldiers we make shells for didn't have to came back or wait—but we are willing to wait for the sake of the women helping to win this war!"

After exactly two weeks the flat refusal of the President to speak to the girls, as transferred by Secretary Tumulty, sent them back to the munition plants to their work to organize their deputation on the mere chance that President Wilson will listen to them the last part of this month.

Girls from many of the New England munition plants and the allied war industries will at this time invade the Capital on the mission that the smaller group was unable to arrange for them.

This week in addition to the Delaware girls, eight munition workers from the Bartlett-Hayward munition plant of Baltimore, added their plea for a hearing to that of the Delaware workers. The Baltimore workers—who called on the President, on Samuel Gompers and on Senator France while they were in the Capital, included Mrs. Lotty Rhoy, Miss Louise Batman, Miss Ruth Creighton, Miss Mary Akers, Miss Bertha Williams, Miss Theresa Rehak, Mrs. Alice De Ment and Miss Hazel Le Brun. The letter of these girls to the Senate which was read in the Senate this week, appears on another page of THE SUFFRAGIST.

When these girls told Senator France their errand and the treatment they had received at the White House he said: "Every other Administration measure has passed but federal suffrage. President Wilson is not helping, or it would pass at once. It is unfair to compel women to leave their work to appeal for the same protection that men have."

The Protest of Florida

THAT the men and women of Florida realize that Senators Trammell and Fletcher are definitely blocking favorable action on federal suffrage the flood of telegrams going to these two reactionaries from their own state demonstrate.

Among the men who have demanded a change of front from the Florida Senators on the ground that their stand on suffrage does not represent the sentiment of the majority of their constituents are W. R. Carter, the editor of the *Jacksonville Metropolis;* N. L. Pinder, of Jacksonville, United States Marshall; John H. Mackay, President of the Florida State Federation of Labor; Father M. Maher, of the (Jacksonville) Diocese of St. Augustine; Charles E. Jones, Chairman of the Patriotic League of Jacksonville; J. Will Yon, of Jacksonville, State Auditor, and W. A. Hallowes, Jr.

Mrs. Frank Brown, Jr., President of the Pan-Hellenic Association, urges immediate action on behalf of her college women's association.

The following letter, sent to Senator Trammell by Miss Helen Hunt, District Chairman of the National Woman's Party, admirably states the case for Florida men and women:

Jacksonville, Fla., May 26, 1918.

Senator Park Trammell, Washington, D. C.

DEAR Senator Trammell: Your letter in answer to my telegram asking you to support the federal suffrage amendment, has been received. A number of your constituents have discussed with me your attitude on states' rights, and I am going to tell you candidly what has been the consensus of opinion, and the criticism that has been made by voters. They have asked me to write you that the states' rights proposition was settled years ago when we Southerners fought and lost to the federal government. Since then prohibition, good roads and various other questions have been settled for the individual states by federal authority.

Personally, I believe in establishing good precedents, not following bad ones, and your vote on the prohibition question, on which I congratulate you, shows that it is not with you entirely a states' right proposition, when it comes to a question of what is a live issue, and the people of the United States are deeply concerned. The question I have been requested by a number of your constituents to ask you is why you consider hog cholera and the eradication of the cattle tick a problem to be settled by Congress, and the extending of democracy to half the population of our country a question to be settled by individual states? This method discriminates against the women of the South, and you Southern men are allowing this condition to exist.

Ten thousand Florida club women; the organized college women of the state; organized war workers; organized labor and many prominent voters from all over Florida have urged you as their representative to support this movement, and to stand by the President on this subject, which has been endorsed by the Democratic Party.

The people of Florida are looking to you for support.

With best personal regards,

Cordially,

HELEN HUNT,

District Chairman National Woman's Party.

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Collections	75.20
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Sale of Tickets	10.00
Total collected by National Headquarters	2,583.20
Previously acknowledged in THE SUFFRAGIST	329,717.02
Total collected by National Headquarters through June 4, 1918	$332,300.22

Contributions made to Michigan Headquarters:

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Rummage Sale	683.28
Total collected by Branches	1,171.78
Previously acknowledged in THE SUFFRAGIST	57,837.54
Total collected by Branches through June 4, 1918	59,009.32
Grand Total	$391,309.54
Deduction:	
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Grand Net Total	$387,932.04

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WEEK ENDING JUNE 8, 1918

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Republicans and Suffrage

THERE appears to be ample ground for the presumption that the Republican Party will hold the Democratic Party responsible for the failure of the suffrage amendment resolution to get through the Senate in the present session, if action on the main question shall be indefinitely postponed. Republican leaders are, even now, saying that the Republican senators were all awaiting an opportunity to cast their votes, the other day, when notice of deferment came from the opposite side of the chamber. Two-thirds of the Republicans, they say, stood ready to vote for the so-called Susan B. Anthony amendment; none of these sought or desired delay; the delay was wholly due to Democratic timidity. Senator Curtis, the Republican whip, is quoted as speaking in regretful terms of the fact that the amendment is not now on its way to the states.

The Democratic defense is, of course, that, had the issue been pressed late last week, the amendment resolution would have failed by at least one, and perhaps by two, votes. To this, Republicans reply that, if the Administration had used its power, there could have been no such thing as failure. In other words, the position taken by the Republicans, that if the Democratic Party whip had been cracked in the name of the Administration, all the votes necessary from that side of the House could easily have been obtained by the suffragists.

It is not the present purpose to give support to either of these contentions, but rather to point out what almost any clear-visioned observer of affairs must plainly see, namely, that the suffrage question, in the interest of sound public policy, should have been definitely disposed of long ago.

Whether the Republicans are right or wrong in attempting to fix on their opponents all responsibility for delay, the fact remains that, since the Democrats are in control of the Senate, and apparently could, if they pleased, bring the suffrage resolution to a roll call, their failure to do so makes partisan capital which can be used effectually in the coming congressional campaign. The Democrats will thus be placed on the defensive with relation to an issue which can be considered altogether aside from the war. By its hesitation concerning suffrage, the Democratic Party is laying itself open to a line of attack against which the war record of the party, at its best, can offer no sure defense.

Equal suffrage is as certain to come as is the sun to shine tomorrow. It will come despite partisan or sectional opposition. The Democratic Party will be wise if it recognizes this fact before the present session of Congress ends.—*Boston Christian Science Monitor, May 15, 1918.*

Where the Blame Lies

WE have it on the authority of one who ought to know, Miss Stevens, of New York, the legislative chairman of the National Woman's Party, that the blame for the Senate's delay in acting on the suffrage amendment, passed by the House some time ago, rests entirely upon the Democrats. Only six Republican Senators are found to be definitely against the suffrage situation. More than two-thirds of the Republicans stand already pledged, and only half of the Democrats, yet a Democratic Senate leader, the other day, had the consummate gall to tell Miss Stevens: "It is up to the Republicans; we have done all we can; when the Republicans give you enough votes to pass it we will bring it up!"

The implication of this suggestion is certainly very flattering! What is more, the Republicans are accepting the opportunity of liberal leadership handed to them by the Democrats, and are making their support of the measure evident to the progressive men and women of the nation. Five Republican Senators, including Floor Leader Gallinger, have recently made speeches demanding action in the Senate; reports are coming in from women in various parts of the country who have talked with Chairman Hayes, of the National Republican Committee, that he is doing and will do everything in his power for the immediate passage of the amendment; the Republican convention of North Carolina recently passed resolutions urging Republican members, for the good of their party, to do everything they could for it; the State Senate of Rhode Island, which last week passed a resolution calling on Senator Gerry to support the amendment, is, of course, Republican. And yet.—.—*Wheeling (West Va.) Intelligencer, April 26, 1918.*

A Word of Advice

BOTH Senator Fletcher and Senator Trammell voted against submitting the suffrage amendment although the National Committee and President Wilson both declared in favor of it. What is the matter with our senators? Are they afraid that their political fences will suffer if the women are given a vote? Woman suffrage is as sure to come as other reforms have been and Florida should not be one of the states to pull back and have to be forced into line. Besides, more than half of the citizens of the state favor suffrage and would vote for it if they had the opportunity.—*Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) Sentinel, May 14, 1918.*

The New England Federal Suffrage Conference

Concluded from Page 10

a trip to Washington, gave an unusually interesting account of this experience, with its background of injustice and discrimination.

Miss Paul made an appeal for help in carrying on the suffrage demand as a measure of wartime justice. She described the big delegation which will come from all sections of New England in two weeks again to ask the President to speak to his wilful Senators. In ten minutes fourteen hundred dollars was raised to help organize this demonstration.

Mrs. M. Toscan Bennet, acting chairman in the absence of Mrs. Ascough, made the arrangements for the conference as a whole, assisted by Miss Catherine Flanagan, national organizer.

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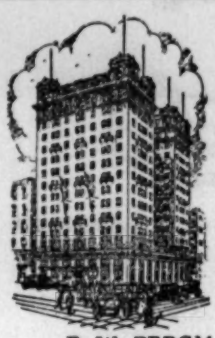

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Where Were They?

"HE that is not with me is against me, and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad."

This is the charge which the women of Michigan must make against Senators Smith and Townsend of Michigan and eighteen other senators who pledged themselves to support suffrage but failed to be in their seats on May 6 when suffrage was given a test vote in the Senate.

On that day the question of setting the date to discuss the suffrage amendment came up. Had the twenty senators been in their seats at the time the cause of suffrage might not have received the slight setback that it suffered by the deferment of the date.

But after making fair promises these gentlemen were unchivalrously absent when the hour of need came. Perhaps some of them overslept that morning, perhaps some were off shopping, or at home helping with the spring housecleaning; let us hope that at least a few of them were out in the back yard starting their war gardens. But, wherever they were, the important thing is that they turned traitor to the cause by not being on hand when needed. But they will have a chance to redeem themselves—or at least to explain.

The Michigan senators have been asked in a resolution passed by the Detroit branch of the Woman's Party to explain their broken pledges and their absence from the chamber.

Let them not imagine that their absence from their posts of duty will go unnoticed. Whatever their urgent domestic affairs may be; let them remember that by their failure to be on hand to cast a vote for suffrage they only fortify the party who says that woman's place is in the home. If that be so, what a paradox for them to linger there where woman's place is supposed to be.

Remembering that the women of Michigan are watching the empty chairs, they would do well to let some indigent tramp stay at home and beat the rugs, or to hire the neighbor boy next door to spade the garden.

Let them, by all means, attend to the business of the state and be in their places when next the chance comes for them to make good their promises to women.—*Detroit Journal, May 10, 1918.*

It Cannot Die

WOMAN'S unfailing optimism must sustain the advocates of the passage of the suffrage amendment by the Senate until such time as that ponderous body awakens to the fact that organization is demanding justice for women and will not be deceived.

Indefinite postponement does not by any means end this matter. The resolution even may be brought up again later during the present session. No matter what happens, it cannot die.—*Dayton Journal, May 16, 1918.*

The Senate Cannot Afford Failure

WHILE American men are fighting in Europe for democracy abroad, a courageous group of American women are struggling in Washington this week to win true democracy at home. The Senate, after long delay, will vote tomorrow upon the Susan B. Anthony suffrage amendment. President Wilson has said that it is essential to his foreign policy that suffrage be granted the women of the United States at this time. The passage of the Anthony amendment has become, therefore, a matter of patriotic necessity as well as a measure of fundamental justice and democracy. The United States cannot afford to permit its senators to shatter the faith of Europe in the sincerity of American ideals.—*Colorado Springs Gazette, May 9, 1918.*

Backward Lawmakers

IN Spain and Germany the women are still regarded as incompetents who are not to be entrusted with enfranchisement. Those two countries cling to the medieval notion that a woman is an inferior being who must be tolerated owing to the fact that it is impossible to keep the world populated without her help. A ridiculous idea, isn't it? But don't be too sure of that. Some of the members of that exalted body, the United States Senate, appear to think that Spain and Germany are keeping woman where she belongs.—*Indianapolis News, May 10, 1918.*

Progress of Suffrage

HERE in Washington it is amusing to note the difference in the general attitude towards suffrage from what it was a few years ago. No longer is it the thing to scoff and jeer. On the contrary, in the realm of ideas suffrage has not only become respectable, but accepted. It has escaped from its association with reproach and failure. It is known to be on the way to success. Lovers of the band wagon are eager to get on board. Even the picketers are finding consideration. At the dinner given a few weeks ago to Senator Gallinger in celebration of his eighty-first birthday, it was amusing to see such obstreperous resisters of authority as Alice Paul, Anne Martin, and Maud Younger, and many of their associates seated in places of honor, looking as demure and innocent as if they had done nothing more strenuous than attend dinner parties all their lives.—*J. D. Barry, in New York Telegraph, May 17, 1918.*

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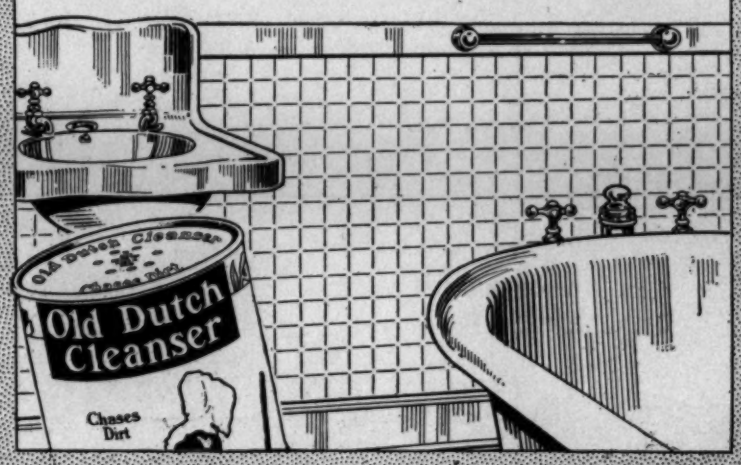

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